

Appl. No. : 10/632,481
Filed : August 1, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending prior to entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 5, and 11 are amended herein. Claim 2, 7, 8, 21, and 30 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 14-20 and 22-29 are allowed and that Claims 2, 5-7, and 9-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 7 have now been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 2, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (*i.e.*, Claim 1). Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended, is therefore allowable.

Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to depend from Claim 1, which is allowable as amended. Claims 5-6 and 9-13, which depend from and include all of the limitations of Claim 1, as amended, are also allowable. Furthermore, each of the dependent claims recites further distinguishing features of particular utility.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 (c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 8 has now been canceled

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,790,128. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kao et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,126,527. Claims 21 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miller, U.S. Patent No. 5,473,433. Claims 8, 21, and 30 have been canceled.

As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 2, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (*i.e.*, Claim 1). Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended, is therefore allowable. Claims 3 and 4, which depend from and include all of the

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limitations of Claim 1, as amended, are therefore also allowable. Furthermore, each of the dependent claims recites further distinguishing features of particular utility. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are now moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentably distinguishable and allowable over the prior art of record. The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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